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Jeannine Lewis (Cozy Giggle Garden Daycare LLC.) Title: Licensed Daycare Provider Owner/operator Phone (203)777-5001

## March 13, 2012 Labor and Public Employees Committee In Support of S.B. 352

My name is Jeannine Lewis; I have been a licensed daycare provider in New Haven, Connecticut for 7 years and I am submitting this testimony in support of S.B. 352. I take great pride in my work by making sure every child is prepared for kindergarten by being able to identify letters, shapes, numbers, spell and write their name, and count as well. I believe that every child in family child care should have providers who have equal funding, supplies and reimbursement. This assures that every child in the state of Connecticut has the best learning experience that can be provided. I have purchased educational materials, computers, supplies and bring my children on a wide variety of field trips to make sure they are receiving the best learning experiences possible.

Even though the cost of living continues to rise, Care 4 Kids rates have not gone up in many years. It is becoming increasingly hard to provide the same level of care. If rates are not increased soon it will lead to a decline in care. Collective bargaining gives providers a way to address the problems at hand.

Thank you

Jeannine Lewis, New Haven Licensed Provider /Owner Operator